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and

[electronically] storing said metering data and said billing data electronically;

reporting said metering data and said billing data electronically.

7. (amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said calculating step calculates said billing data using generation, transmission and distribution costs of [electricity] said utility.

10. (amended) A method for remotely metering [electricity] usage of a utility at a consumer site and providing metering and billing data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving [electricity] utility usage information remotely from [an electric] a utility meter;

5 calculating an electricity bill based on said usage information;

generating reports containing said usage information and [electricity] a utility bill, wherein said reports and said bill are electronically accessible.

14. (amended) The method in accordance with claim 10 wherein said receiving step receives said usage information from said [electric method] utility meter by polling said [electric] utility meter using an electronic communication medium, wherein said [electric] utility meter is configured with a modem to connect to said communication medium.

17. (amended) A [Metering and Billing Information Solution ("MBIS")] system for remotely metering [electricity] usage of a utility at a consumer site and for providing consumers with metering information, billing information, and electronic payment options, the system comprising:

5 [an electric] a utility meter for obtaining usage data on the amount of
[electricity] said utility delivered to said customer site and transmitting said usage
data;

receiving means for receiving said usage data transmitted by said [electric]
utility meter;

10 calculating means for calculating [an electricity] a utility bill for the amount of
[electricity] utility used based on usage data;

a computer database for storing said usage data and said [electricity] utility
bill;

data retrieval means for retrieving said usage data and said [electricity] utility

15 bill stored on said computer database; and

user interface means for presenting said usage data and said [electricity] utility
bill to customers.

18. (amended) The system in accordance with claim 17 wherein said [electric] utility meter is
configured with a modem for transmitting said data on an electronic data line.

19. (amended) The system in accordance with claim 17 wherein said user interface means
further comprises a web site on the Internet for interactively providing said usage data and
said [electricity] utility bill to consumers